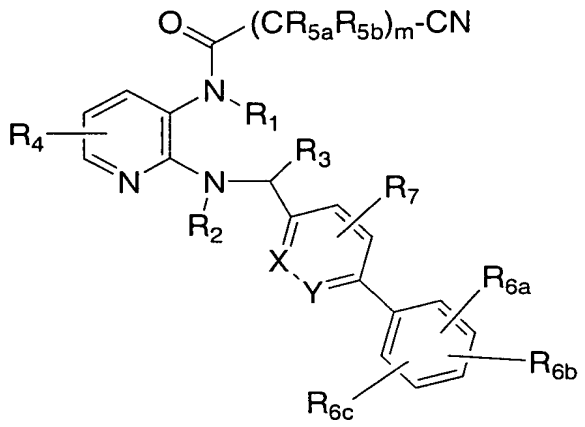
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula I



I

wherein

m is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

X and Y are each CH, or one is CH and the other is N;

R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from

(1) hydrogen and

(2) C_{1-4} alkyl;

R_3 is selected from

(1) hydrogen, and

(2) C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 4 groups selected from halogen, CO_2R^a, OR^a, COR^a and cyano;

R_4 is selected from

(1) hydrogen,

(2) nitro,

(3) halogen,

(4) $(CH_2)_nOR^a$,

(5) $(CH_2)_nCO_2R^a$,

(6) $(CH_2)_nCN$,

(7) $(CH_2)_nNR^bR^c$,

(8) $(CH_2)_nNHC(O)CH_2CN$,

(9) $CONR^bR^c$, and

(10) C_{1-4} alkyl;

R_{5a} and R_{5b} are independently hydrogen or methyl, or R_{5a} and R_{5b} together complete a C_{3-4}cycloalkyl ring,

R_{6a} is selected from

(1) C_{1-8} alkyl, optionally substituted with 1 to 5 groups independently selected from halogen, nitro, cyano, COR^a, SO_2R^d, CO_2R^a, NR^bR^c, $NR^bC(O)R^a$, $NHSO_2R^d$, OR^a, $OC(O)R^a$, $CONR^bR^c$,

(2) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl,

(3) C_{2-8} alkenyl optionallly substituted with CO_2R^a;

(4) halogen,

(5) OCF_3,

(6) cyano,

(7) nitro,

(8) NR^bR^c,

(9) $NR^bC(O)R^a$,

(10) $NR^bCO_2R^{a'}$, wherein $R^{a'}$ is a non-hydrogen group selected from R^a,

(11) CO_2R^a,

(12) COR^a,

(13) $C(O)NR^bR^c$,

(14) $C(O)NHOR^a$,

(15) OR^a,

(16) $OC(O)R^a$,

(17) $S(O)_nR^{a'}$, wherein $R^{a'}$ is a non-hydrogen group selected from R^a,

(18) SO_2NHR^c,

(19) $NHSO_2R^d$,

(20) $C(=NOR^a)NR^bR^c$,

(21) $C(=NOR^a)R^a$, and

(22) substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle where the heterocycle is selected from oxadiazole, tetrazole, triazole, pyrazole, oxazole, isoxazole, thiazole, 4,5-dihydro-oxazole, 4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-one, and wherein said substituent

is 1 to 3 groups independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms, OR^a, or $OC(O)R^a$;

R_{6b} and R_{6c} are independently selected from

(1) hydrogen, and

(2) a group from R_{6a}; with the proviso that not more than one of R_{6a}, R_{6b}, and R_{6c} is a heterocycle;

R_7 is selected from

(1) hydrogen,

(2) cyano,

(3) nitro,

(4) halogen,

(5) OR^a,

(6) CO_2R^a,

(7) $CONR^bR^c$, and

(8) C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^a is selected from

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C_{1-4} alkyl,

(3) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl,

(4) aryl, and

(5) aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^b and R^c are independently selected from

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with OR^a,

(3) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl,

(4) aryl, and

(5) aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl; or

R^b and R^c together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6-membered ring optionally containing a heteroatom selected from NR^a, O and S;

R^d is selected from

(1) C_{1-4} alkyl, optionally substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms,

(2) aryl,

(3) aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl; and

(4) NR^bR^c;

n is 0, 1 or 2, or
a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_1 and R_2 are each hydrogen.

3. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_3 is hydrogen.

4. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_3 is C_{1-4} alkyl.

5. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_4 is H or a 4-substituent selected from C_{1-4} alkyl, halogen, NR^bR^c, $(CH_2)_nOR^a$, $(CH_2)_nCN$, $(CH_2)_nCO_2R^a$.

6. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_4 is H, 4-chloro or 4-methyl.

7. A compound of Claim 1 wherein $(CR_{5a}R_{5b})_m$ is selected from $-CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_3)-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-$, $>C(CH_2-CH_2)$, $-C(CH_3)_2-$.

8. A compound of Claim 1 wherein $(CR_{5a}R_{5b})_m$ is $-CH_2-$.

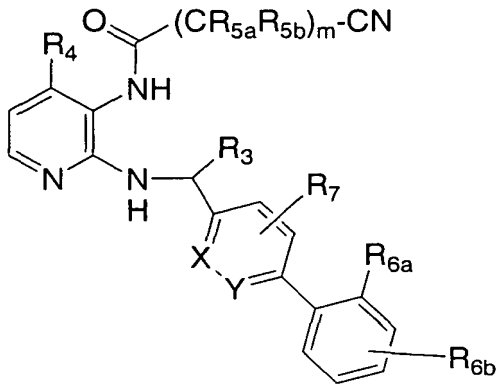
9. A compound of Claim 1 wherein X and Y are both CH.

10. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R_{6a} is a 2- (or ortho-) substituent.

11. A compound of Claim 10 wherein R_{6a} is selected from CO_2R^a, $CONR^bR^c$, C_{1-8} alkyl substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms, cyano, SO_2NHR^c, halogen, trifluoromethoxy, 2-methyltetrazol-5-yl, 3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, 5-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, 5-ethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, 5-methyl-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl, and 3-methyl-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl.

12. A compound of Claim 10 wherein R_{6b} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl optionally substituted with OH or 1 to 5 halogen atoms, C_{2-6} alkenyl, NR^bR^c, OR^a, COR^a, CO_2R^a, $NHCOR^a$, $NHSO_2R^d$ and halogen, and R_{6c} is hydrogen.

13. A compound of Claim 1 having the formula Ia:



Ia

wherein R_3, R_4, R_{5a}, R_{5b}, R_{6a}, R_{6b}, R_7, m, X and Y are as defined in Claim 1.

14. A compound of Claim 13 wherein at least one of R_3, R_4 and R_{6b} are non-hydrogen.

15. A compound of Claim 14 wherein R_4 is C_{1-4} alkyl or halogen.

16. A compound of Claim 14 wherein R_3 is C_{1-4} alkyl.

17. A compound of Claim 14 wherein R_{6b} is C_{1-4} alkyl or halogen.

18. A compound of Claim 17 wherein R_{6b} is a 3-, 5- or 6-substituent.

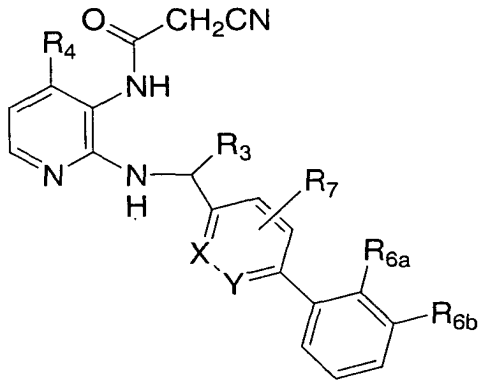
19. A compound of Claim 14 wherein R_3 is C_{1-4} alkyl and R_{6b} is C_{1-4} alkyl or halogen.

20. A compound of Claim 14 wherein R_4 is C_{1-4} alkyl or halogen and R_{6b} is C_{1-4} alkyl or halogen.

21. A compound of Claim 14 wherein R_3 is C_{1-4} alkyl and R_4 is C_{1-4} alkyl or halogen.

22. A compound of Claim 14 wherein R_3 is C_{1-4} alkyl, R_4 is C_{1-4} alkyl or halogen, and R_{6b} is C_{1-4} alkyl or halogen.

23. A compound of Claim 14 having the formula Ib:



Ib

wherein

R_3 is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R_4 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, halogen, NR^bR^c, $(CH_2)_nOR^a$, $(CH_2)_nCN$, or $(CH_2)_nCO_2R^a$;

R_{6a} is selected from CO_2R^a, $CONR^bR^c$, C_{1-8} alkyl substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms, cyano, SO_2NHR^c, halogen, trifluoromethoxy, 2-methyltetrazol-5-yl, 3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, 5-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, 5-ethyl-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, 5-methyl-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl, and 3-methyl-1,2,4-triazol-5-yl;

R_{6b} is hydrogen or halogen;

X and Y are each CH and R_7 is hydrogen, halogen or C_{1-4} alkyl; or

one of X and Y is CH and the other is N, and R_7 is hydrogen.

24. A compound of Claim 23 wherein R_4 is H, methyl or chloro.

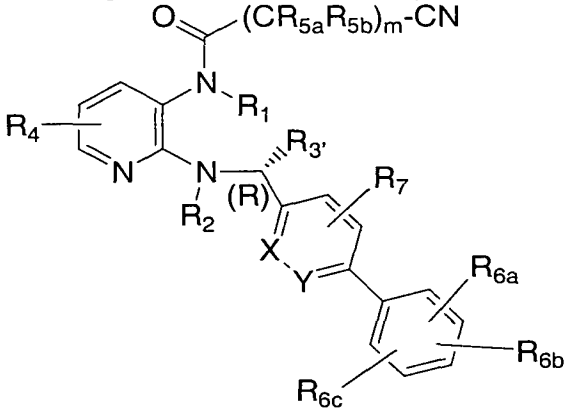
25. A compound of Claim 23 wherein R_3 is H or methyl.

26. A compound of Claim 23 wherein R_{6b} is H, chloro or fluoro.

27. A compound of Claim 23 wherein R_{6a} is CO_2R^a, $CONR^bR^c$, cyano, halogen, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, SO_2NHR^c, 2-methyltetrazol-5-yl, 3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl or 5-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl.

28. A compound of Claim 23 wherein R_4 is H, methyl or chloro; R_3 is H or methyl; R_{6b} is H, chloro or fluoro; and R_{6a} is CO_2R^a, $CONR^bR^c$, cyano, halogen, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, SO_2NHR^c, 2-methyltetrazol-5-yl, 3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl or 5-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazolyl.

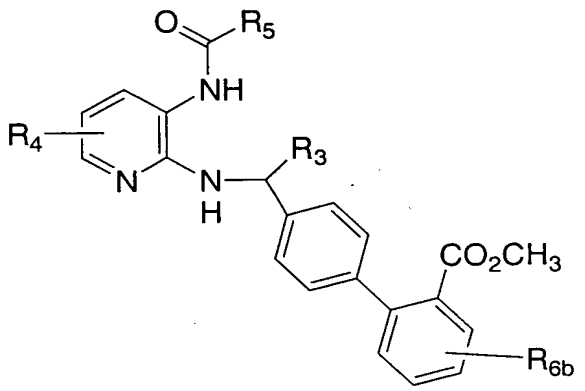
29. A compound of Claim 1 having the formula Ic:



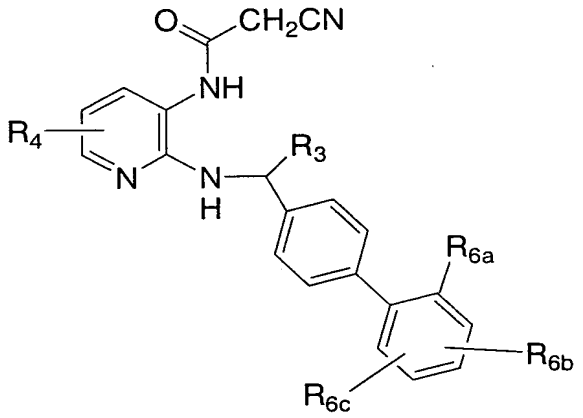
Ic

wherein all the variables are as defined in Claim 1, except $R_{3'}$ is C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 4 groups selected from halogen, CO_2R^a, OR^a, COR^a and cyano.

30. A compound of Claim 1 selected from:



R6b	R3	R4	R5
5-Me	Me (*R*)	4-Me	1-(1-CN-cyclopropyl)
H	H	H	1-(1-CN-cylcopropyl)
H	H	H	$C(CH_3)_2CN$
H	H	H	CH_2CH_2CN
H	H	H	$CH(CH_3)CN$

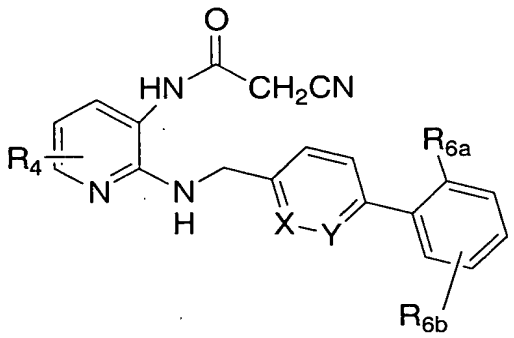


R6a	R6b/R6c	R3	R4
CO_2Me	3-F	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
CO_2Me	3-F	Me (*R*)	4-Me
CO_2Me	6-Me	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
2-Me-2H-tetrazol-5-yl	3-F	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
3-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	3-F	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
CO_2Me	3-Cl	Me (*R*)	4-Me

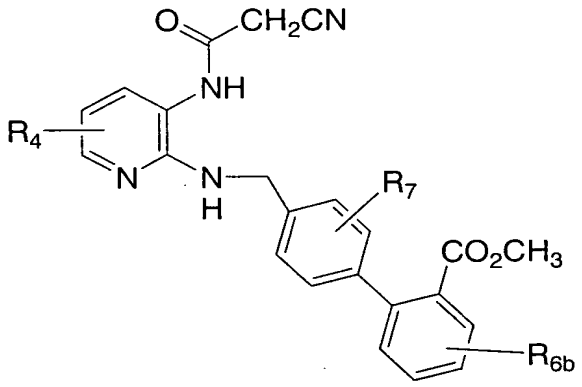
R_{6a}	R_{6b}/R_{6c}	R_3	R_4
CO_2Me	3-F	H	4-Me
CO_2Me	3-F	Me (*R*)	H
CO_2Me	3-Cl	H	4-Me
5-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	3-F	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
CO_2Me	3-Cl	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
3-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	3-F	H	4-Me
CO_2Me	5-Me	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
CO_2Me	5-Cl	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
CONHMe	3-F	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
CO_2Me	6-Me	Me *(R)*	4-Me
2-Me-tetrazol-5-yl	3-F	Me (*R*)	4-Me
CO_2Me	3-Cl	Me (*R*)	H
CO_2Me	3-Cl	H	4-Cl
CF_3	3-F	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
CF_3	3-F	Me (*R*)	4-Me
CO_2Me	5-Me	Me (*R*)	4-Me
5-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	H	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
3-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	5-F	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
CHF_2	3-Cl	H	4-Me
CO_2Me	5-F	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
$CONH_2$	3-Cl	H	4-Me
CF_3	3-F	H	4-Me
5-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	5-Me	Me (*R*)	4-Me
5-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	H	Me (*R*)	4-Me
CN	3-F	H	4-Cl
3-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	H	Me (*R*)	4-Me
CF_3	3-F	Me (*R*)	H
5-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	5-Me	H	4-Me
Cl	3-F	Me (*R*)	4-Me
CO_2Me	H	Me (*R*)	4-Me
CO_2Me	H	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
CO_2Me	6-Cl	Me (*R*)	4-Cl

R_{6a}	R_{6b}/R_{6c}	R_3	R_4
CO_2Me	6-F	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
CN	3-Cl	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
SO_2NHMe	H	Me (*R*)	4-Me
5-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	H	Me	4-Me
3-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	5-Cl	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
3-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	5-Me	H	4-Me
3-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	H	H	4-Me
3-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	H	H	4-Me
CO_2Me	6-Me	H	H
Cl	3-Cl	Me (*R*)	4-Me
SO_2NHMe	H	Me (*R*)	4-Me
3-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	H	H	H
CF_3	H	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
Cl	3-F	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
CF_3	H	Me (*R*)	4-Me
CO_2Me	H	CH_2OH	4-Me
1-Me-1H-tetrazol-5-yl	3-F	Me (*R*)	4-Cl
3-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	H	H	4-Cl
CO_2Me	H	H	$4\text{-}CH_2CN$
Cl	3-Br/5-F		4-Me
CO_2Me	H	H	4-Cl
OCF_3	H	Me (*R*)	4-Me
Cl	3-F	H	4-Me
CHF_2	H	H	4-Me
CF_3	H	H	4-Me
CO_2Me	H	H	4-Me
CO_2Me	H	H	H
CF_3	H	H	4-Me
3-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	6-Me	Me (*R*)	4-Me
Br	H	Me (*R*)	4-Me
CONHMe	H	H	4-Me
CN	H	Me (*R*)	4-Me

R_{6a}	R_{6b}/R_{6c}	R_3	R_4
SO_2NHMe	H	H	4-Me
CO_2Me	3-Me	H	4-Me
Cl	3-F	Me (*R*)	H
F	3-F	Me (*R*)	4-Me
CO_2Me	H	H	4-Br
CO_2Me	H	Et	4-Me
CO_2Me	H	H	5-F
CF_3	H	Me	H
CO_2Me	6-vinyl	H	4-Me
CO_2Me	H	H	4-$(CH_2)_2OH$
CO_2Me	6-NHMe	H	4-Me
CO_2Me	6-CH_2OH	H	4-Me
Cl	5-Cl	Me (*R*)	4-Me
Cl	6-Me	Me (*R*)	4-Me
CO_2Me	6-N(Me) 2	H	4-Me
CO_2Me	H	H	4-CH_2CO_2Me
3-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	6-Me	H	4-Me
CO_2Me	6-Et	H	4-Me
CO_2Me	6-OMe	H	4-Me
5-Me-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl	H	H	H
5-Et-1,2,4-oxadiazole	H	H	H
CO_2Me	6-CO_2Me	H	4-Me
SO_2NHMe	H	Me (*S*)	4-Me
CO_2Me	6-CHO	H	4-Me
CF_3	6- CF_3	Me (*R*)	4-Me
3-Me-1,2,4-oxadiazole	H	Me (*S*)	4-Me
1-Me-1H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl	H	H	H
F	4-F	Me (*R*)	4-Me
CO_2Me	H	H	4-CH_2CO_2tBu
CO_2Me	6-NHCOMe	H	4-Me
CO_2Me	6-$NHSO_2Me$	H	4-Me



R_{6a}	R_{6b}	R_4	X	Y
CO_2Me	H	4-Me	N	CH
CF_3	H	H	CH	N
CO_2Me	H	H	N	CH
CO_2Me	H	4-Me	CH	N
CO_2Me	3-F	4-Me	N	CH
CO_2Me	3-F	4-Me	CH	N



R_{6b}	R_4	R_7
3-F	4-Me	2'-F
H	H	2'-Me
3-F	4-Me	3'-F
H	H	3'-Me

31. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32. A method of treatment or prevention of pain and inflammation comprising a step of administering, to a subject in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

33. A method of treatment of osteoarthritis, repetitive motion pain, dental pain, cancer pain, myofascial pain, muscular injury pain, fibromyalgia pain, perioperative pain comprising a step of administering, to a subject in need of such treatment, an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

34. A method of treatment or prevention of inflammatory pain caused by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, inflammatory bowel disease, rhinitis, pancreatitis, cystitis (interstitial cystitis), uveitis, inflammatory skin disorders, rheumatoid arthritis, edema resulting from trauma associated with burns, sprains or fracture, postsurgical intervention, osteoarthritis, rheumatic disease, teno-synovitis, or gout comprising a step of administering, to a subject in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

35. A method of treatment or prevention of pain associated with angina, menstruation or cancer comprising a step of administering, to a subject in need of such treatment or prevention, an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

36. A method of treatment of diabetic vasculopathy, post capillary resistance, diabetic symptoms associated with insulitis, psoriasis, eczema, spasms of the gastrointestinal tract or uterus, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, or pancreatitis comprising a step of administering, to a subject in need of such treatment, an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

37. A method of treatment or prevention of pain caused by pneumoconiosis, including aluminosis, anthracosis, asbestosis, chalicosis, ptilosis, siderosis, silicosis, tabacosis, byssinosis, adult respiratory distress syndrome, bronchitis, allergic rhinitis, vasomotor rhinitis, liver disease, multiple sclerosis, atherosclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, septic shock, cerebral edema, headache, migraine, closed head trauma, irritable bowel syndrome, or nephritis comprising a step of administering, to a subject in need of such treatment or prevention of pain, an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.